

Message

From: Overbey, Dian [Overbey.Dian@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/17/2020 2:02:31 PM
To: Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]; Bohnenblust, Eric [Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Draft OPP Update for Oxitec

Importance: High

Sending again so it's at the top of your inbox. Hope to hear from one or both of you soon!

Dian

From: Overbey, Dian
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 6:07 PM
To: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Bohnenblust, Eric <Bohnenblust.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: Draft OPP Update for Oxitec
Importance: High

Hi Mike and Eric,

Could you two please take a look at this draft and give me feedback?

Is the last sentence in the second paragraph true in this case?

Anything else that needs to be added? Any other conditions for the EUP? Mike, you mentioned that Oxitec had to get permission from Florida. I'm assuming Texas, too.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

EPA Grants Request for Experimental Permit to Combat Mosquitoes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has granted an experimental use permit that would allow Oxitec Ltd. to study of the use of genetically engineered mosquitoes to reduce mosquito populations on up to 6,600 acres in Harris County, Texas, and Monroe County, Florida, over a period of 24 months.

EPA issues experimental use permits when field testing is required as part of the registration process. Since such testing necessarily involves an unregistered product, EPA sometimes must first authorize the distribution and sale for testing purposes by means of an EUP under FIFRA section 5.

Oxitec proposed conducting research on reducing mosquito populations and gathering information that could support a subsequent application for broader use in the United States. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes can spread several diseases of significant human health concern, including the Zika virus and dengue fever; and successfully reducing their populations could have beneficial, long-term effects in reducing the incidence of these mosquito-borne diseases.

Oxitec proposed releasing male genetically modified male mosquitoes into the environment to mate with wild female mosquitoes. The males released would be genetically modified in such a way that their female offspring die as larvae while male offspring survive to come fully functional adults with the same modifications. Since male mosquitoes do not bite people, there would be no transmission of the genetic modification to people,

which could provide multi-generational effectiveness so that, ultimately, *Aedes aegypti* mosquito populations in the release areas decline. It is also anticipated that there will be no adverse effects to other nontarget species.

Oxitec Ltd. Must now seek approval of the EUP from Florida and Texas.

To read EPA's decision, go to: [\[Insert link\]](#)

Thanks,

Dian D. Overbey
Communication Services Branch
Field and External Affairs Division
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Potomac Yard S-8927
(703) 305-5018 (O)
(571) 302-0764 (OC)
(202) 460-4875 (Personal Cell)